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Department of Vermont Health Access

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Contact: Emily Yahr

Contact Phone Number: 802-343-8218

Contact E-mail Address: [Emily.Yahr@state.vt.us](mailto:Emily.Yahr@state.vt.us)

**Vermonters to Receive High-Level Quality Service through Vermont Health Connect**

*Vermont awarded federal grant to strengthen health coverage marketplace, opening Oct. 1*

WINOOSKI, VT – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced that Vermont will receive an additional \$42.7 million grant to support Vermont Health Connect, the state's health insurance marketplace. This is the fourth in a series of federal Establishment Grants to support the implementation of Vermont Health Connect, which will launch October 1<sup>st</sup>. This grant will be used to further bolster operations related to premium processing, the Vermont-based call center, and integrating eligibility programs.

"We are honored by the continued support of Vermont's health reform goals from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services," said Robin Lunge, Vermont's Director of Health Care Reform. "The federal funding we receive through this grant will help us continue to build Vermont Health Connect so that it is accessible and makes comprehensive health care a reality for more Vermonters."

Vermont Health Connect will allow individuals, families and small businesses to compare health insurance plans side-by-side, and select the one that fits their needs and budget. Both private and public plans, such as Medicaid and Dr. Dynasaur, will also be accessible through Vermont Health Connect. Information and support will be available on-line, by telephone and in person.

"A large part of the Vermont Health Connect effort is providing Vermonters with the help they will need as they enroll in a plan that reflects their individual medical needs and budget," said Mark Larson, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access. "We are committed to making Vermont Health Connect a success and will maximize this grant funding to strengthen Vermont Health Connect."

In a few short months, Vermonters can begin experiencing one of the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act by accessing coverage through Vermont Health Connect that includes doctor visits, hospital stays, preventive care, and prescription coverage. Many low and middle income Vermonters will access financial assistance through Vermont Health Connect to help pay for their medical costs. Information about Vermont Health Connect is available now at [www.vermonthealthconnect.gov](http://www.vermonthealthconnect.gov).

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